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Agenda item 10
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Corrigendum

Paragraph 1

The paragraph should read:

1. The following draft resolution was submitted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Establishment of the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

GE.01-63502 (E) 210701

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the vital role played by the development of scientific and technological capabilities and technological innovation in achieving the goals of sustainable development,

Recognizing also the need to integrate and coordinate the endeavours of all the parties concerned with the development of scientific and technological capabilities, including bodies from the public, joint and private sectors and the institutions of civil society, to employ technological innovation in order to promote the productivity and competitiveness of the production and services sectors in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting the possibilities which technological innovation capabilities offer with regard to facing the challenges and demands of globalization and the new systems and measures relating to the quality of products, the preservation of intellectual property rights and environmental protection,

1. *Decides* to establish the Consultative Committee on Scientific and Technological Development and Technological Innovation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the main responsibility of which will be to sponsor endeavours aimed at scientific and technological development and technological innovation. The Committee shall be composed of distinguished experts in the field, and shall have the following duties:

(a) To advise on the endeavours exerted by member countries with a view to acquiring modern technology and support such endeavours with regional and international expertise, with particular reference to information and communications technology, biotechnology and new materials technology;

(b) To propose ways of integrating and coordinating efforts aimed at transferring, adapting and mastering this technology, and promoting regional cooperation in these fields;

(c) To advise on priorities related to the programmes of work and medium-term plans adopted by the Commission in the fields of developing scientific and technological capabilities and technological innovation;

(d) To follow up on the resolutions and recommendations of international and regional conferences relating to the development of scientific and technological capabilities and technological innovation which are attended by member countries of the Commission, and to coordinate efforts related to the implementation of such resolutions and recommendations;

2. *Also decides* that the Committee shall hold its meetings at least once every two years, with effect from 2002;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to follow up implementation of this resolution and to submit a report on the progress that has been achieved in this regard to the Commission at its twenty-second session.

Section D, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Replace the section with the following section:

D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

35. At its twenty-first session, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted a number of resolutions, four of which merit the attention of the Council, along with one recommendation.

Resolution 233 (XXI). The strengthening of cooperation between member countries in the field of shared water resources

36. The resolution urges member countries to increase the level of their cooperation in the field of water resources and, in particular, with regard to shared groundwater, water-related legislation and the management of demand, by creating within the Committee on Water Resources working parties specialized in the various technical aspects of the field, with a view to harmonizing methodology with respect to the management of such resources. It also requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to facilitate the work of those parties through the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources.

Resolution 234 (XXI). Rationalization and increased efficiency of energy and the use of renewable sources of energy

37. The resolution urges member countries to include in their energy-related programmes the policies and measures necessary in order to increase the efficiency of and rationalize energy use and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. This should be achieved through the devising of institutional frameworks for their implementation. It also requests member countries to take the measures necessary to support the performance of activities related to the renewable energy promotion mechanism, with a view to strengthening regional cooperation in that field; to this end, the endeavours of national focal points for the regional mechanism should be supported.

Resolution 235 (XXI). Adoption of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq

38. The resolution addresses the adoption of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and requests the secretariat of ESCWA to give priority attention to the development of an integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq and to facilitation of international commercial and passenger traffic in the region, with a view to benefiting from the increased volume of commercial and tourist exchanges between member

countries and countries of the region as well as other regions. The resolution also calls upon member States to ratify the Agreement in order to ensure that it enters into force at the earliest opportunity. The Agreement was unanimously adopted by the 13 members of ESCWA.

Resolution 237 (XXI). Rehabilitation of economic sectors in Palestine

39. The resolution requests the Commission to implement activities in consultation with the relevant Palestinian economic institutions and requests the Executive Secretary of ESCWA to raise extrabudgetary resources to finance such activities.

Recommendation on the activities of ESCWA

40. In the report of the session, which was unanimously adopted, the Commission called for focusing ESCWA activities on a limited number of priorities, reducing the number of outputs to serve this purpose and reconsidering the organizational structure accordingly to serve the objective of promoting regional integration of ESCWA countries. A special session might be convened for this purpose if the need arises.

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